



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, May 6, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-2194)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg,
Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Patricia Curry,
Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang,
Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas
Esq., Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin, Commissioner Adelina
Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman and Commissioner Sandra Rudnick

Call to Order. (13-2067)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of May 6, 2013 Meeting attendees. (13-2068)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the May 6, 2013 Meeting Agenda. (13-2069)

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Sunny Kang, unanimously carried, (Vice Chair Friedman and Rudnick being absent and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin abstaining), this item was approved. Commissioner Olivas was not present during the vote taken for this item.

3. Approval of the minutes from the Meeting of April 22, 2013. (13-2070)

Vice Chair Kleinberg requested that minutes of April 22, 2013 be corrected to include the reason Commissioners Curry and Rudnick are listed as presenters under Item No. 6.

On motion of Vice Chair Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Chair Geneva Berger, unanimously carried, (Vice Chair Friedman and Rudnick being absent and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin abstaining), this item was approved with the correction noted above. Commissioner Olivas was not present during the vote taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for May 6, 2013 by Geneva Berger, Chair. (13-2071)

Chair Berger welcomed Becky A. Shevlin, new Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

Commissioner Shevlin shared a brief history on her background stating she is currently a Councilmember for the City of Monrovia and a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission for Women. Additionally, she is active in various community organizations including the YMCA and the non-profit organization Monrovia Reads.

Chair Berger reported the following:

- The Department of Mental Health is holding its Client Congress Forum 2013 "Many Voices – One Vision" on Friday, June 28, 2013 at the Cathedral Plaza Center, located at 555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles. Registration forms are available from staff.
- The Department of Mental Health is holding its Transition Age Youth (TAY) Conference 2013 on May 29, 2013 at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities, located at 1000 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
- The 2013 Leadership Conference hosted by the Quality and Productivity Commission will be held May 22, 2013 at the Music Center. If Commissioners are interested in attending, please contact staff.
- The meeting will adjourn today in the memory of Dr. Antronette K. Yancey.

Commissioner Sorkin added that Dr. Yancey was a UCLA public health professor and very active in promoting health through physical activity. The California Wellness Foundation is dedicating 10 minutes of physical activity tomorrow, May 7, 2013 in memory of her. She also was a member of First 5 LA Commission.

Sylvia Drew Ivie added that Dr. Yancey was a tremendous advocate for children. She promoted "Instant Recess" in school, childcare, and work environments. Additionally, she was a very skilled fundraiser and secured millions of dollars in funding from the Center for Disease Control for physical activity programs. She accomplished a great deal during her lifetime. She will be missed and remembered very fondly.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Agenda Item 5 was taken after item 6.

5. DCFS Director's report for May 6, 2013 by Philip Browning, Director, DCFS (13-2072)

Helen Berberian, Executive Assistant, DCFS, reported the following on behalf of Director Browning:

- Director Browning is currently accompanying the Board of Supervisors traveling on their annual visit to Washington D.C. which will focus on the renewal of the Title IV-E Waiver.
- On May 1, 2013, Director Browning was in Sacramento and met with Senator Yee about SB 738 which addresses sexually exploited and trafficked minors. At the request of Senator Yee, the Director will be returning to Sacramento on May 14, 2013 to testify on the impact of sex trafficking in Los Angeles County.
- Director Browning is working with the Inter-University Consortium (IUC) on the redesign of its program curriculum. Currently, a six-month extension from the State of the current contract with universities is being sought. An extension will allow time to develop a training curriculum that enhances training in areas of critical thinking and investigative skills. The first targeted academies would be the Children's Social Worker (CSW) Core, Supervising Children's Social Workers SCSW Core, Coaching, and leadership.
- Service Planning Area (SPA) Six Coalition is circulating a petition of complaint against DCFS on four issues; 1) escalating detentions, 2)

increased foster care placements, 3) reduction in Family Preservation funding, 4) diminishing point of engagement strategies. The Coalition has met with Congresswoman Karen Bass on these issues. In order to remedy this matter, DCFS is requesting \$22.8 million from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) from the County General Fund. The requested amount equals the amount that DCFS absorbed due to the group home rate increase.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATION

6. Presentation by DCFS on the 241.1 and Delinquency Prevention Project:

- Rhelda Shabazz, Juvenile Court & Adoption Bureau Deputy Director (13-1534)

Ms. Shabazz introduced Denise Herz who spoke on the 241.1 Project and her Executive Assistant, Loren Solem-Kuehl who collects data for the Delinquency Prevention Project (DPP).

Ms. Shabazz reported on the DPP with the following:

- In 2010, the DCFS began focusing efforts to prevent youth from crossing over from the dependency court system to the delinquency court system. In an effort to identify delinquency risk factors early in the process, DCFS initiated a Structured Decision Making (SDM) delinquency screening assessment developed by the Children's Research Center (CRC). SDM is an approach used by Social Workers that involves specific criteria for screening and investigating and may be used as needed during the case plan.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the SDM delinquency screening assessment, the Delinquency Prevention Project (DPP) was piloted in the Compton, Glendora, Palmdale, and South County DCFS offices, in October of 2012. The project is currently focusing on ensuring that the SDM tool is useful and the right data is being captured.
- A preliminary report conducted by CRC was released in April of 2013 that provides a profile of the 93 youth who met eligibility criteria and participated in the DPP. The report pointed out issues with the DPP process that included inconsistent data entry.

Mr. Solem-Kuehl added that twenty-two of the youth were ages 10 to 12, twenty-eight were age 13 or 14, and forty-three were age 15 or older.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the presenters stated the following:

- **Ms. Herz clarified that youth involved in the DPP have not yet been referred to the juvenile justice system. There are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 youth referrals to 241.1 annually. Of these referrals, approximately one-third are reassessments and one-third are repeat referrals.**
- **Mr. Solem-Kuehl explained that the youth indicated in the CRC report covered a six-month time period.**
- **Ms. Shabazz explained that completing the SDM tool is not additional work for the Social Worker. DPP has minimal impact to the Social Worker's workload.**
- **Mr. Solem-Kuehl added that the additional workload is carried by staff involved in the pilot and staff in the Information Services Section who extract data once the SDM tool is completed.**
- **Ms. Shabazz explained that services provided through the DPP are existing services including mentoring that are available within DCFS.**
- **Mr. Solem-Kuehl indicated that there has not been a point person from Probation established from the time the pilot was assigned to Ms. Shabazz. Probation attended a workgroup meeting two months ago and discussed the Countywide services available through Probation that can assist youth from a preventive standpoint that are not under Probation's jurisdiction.**

Ms. Herz added that since the youth involved in DPP are not under Probation supervision, she suspects that Probation's part in the pilot is through Prevention Services.

The Commission expressed concern that the DPP report does not speak to services. Additionally, the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) new Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 3-Year Plan is currently in the planning phase, the absence of services in the DPP report makes it difficult to request allocation of MHSA funding for additional services without providing justification.

Ms. Shabazz explained that the next steps include developing enhanced services that meet the needs of youth identified in the pilot. A follow-up report will be released in approximately six months that will include the number of youth in DPP receiving Wraparound Services, prevention services related to MHSA, as well as AB 3632 related services.

Ms. Berberian joined the discussion and spoke to the needs of high-risk youth with the following:

- A database was developed in 2012 that draws from independently maintained databases throughout DCFS including the SDM tool. This comprehensive database identifies the highest at-risk youth in the system through a ranking system. All youth under DCFS jurisdiction have been ranked with a risk score ranging from 1 to 13. Youth scoring a 7 or higher are considered high risk. High-risk cases undergo a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) conference including participants from affected departments to devise a plan of care. A new feature added to the high risk case plan is a monthly report to the DCFS Director. Currently, there are approximately 200 youth in the system considered high-risk.**
- DCFS is working with Dr. Sophie's staff on a request for services to be submitted during the MHSA stakeholder's process.**
- The CEO Self-sufficiency Workgroup is discussing how to include more departments in the MDT conferences in order to identify youth under Probation and/or DCFS supervision. Dave Mitchell attends the workgroup meetings representing the Probation Department.**
- Through the High Risk Youth Project, DMH participates in the assessment of information from the database scoring and recalibration of services. The database also measures instability with one of the risk factors being the frequency of youth visiting the Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP). The main purpose for developing the database was to determine the types of additional specialized services and specialized placement that are needed.**
- The case plans developed for the high-risk youth are based on the Core Practice Model which requires DMH partnership.**

- An emergency Wraparound system has been instituted for youth coming into the ERCP. DCFS is currently changing the monitoring of Wraparound to assess the quality of Wraparound Services being administered. Wraparound providers include a menu of mental health services.
- The High Risk Youth Project is being measured against three outcomes; 1) safety, 2) permanency, and 3) quality of services.

Ms. Berberian concluded the discussion and informed the Commission that submitting DCFS' request for the new MHSA 3-Year Plan is a top priority and she will be reaching out to the Commission for feedback.

Ms. Herz provided a brief history on the 241.1 Board of Supervisors motion, [Item 9 of 3/5/13](#) and reported the following:

- The motion stated that MHSA funding be allocated to hiring Psychiatric Social Workers (PSW) and that specific outcomes to be tracked over time.
- Presently, DMH has started the hiring process for the PSW's. Additionally, work is being done with all agencies involved to develop a data collection tool for every 241.1 referral that comes into the system. A large amount of information will be collected that breaks down to the DCFS, Probation, DMH and education level. These agencies will have their own data collection tool that makes up a comprehensive database; information will be captured up front. Tracking on a random sample of 25 youth with 241.1 statuses over ten months will be evaluated for the services they have received. This project is currently pending direction from County Counsel on any potential violation of the State's Automated Child Welfare System (SACWIS).

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-2073)

There were none.

Announcements

8. Announcements for the meeting of May 6, 2013. (13-2074)

There were none.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-2075)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the meeting of May 6, 2013. (13-2076)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. in memory of Dr. Antronette K. Yancey.